

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Disabilities Action Team Sub-Committee (DAT)
October 21, 2014 Minutes

The Disabilities Action Team of the City of Mesa met on October 21st, 2014,
at 6:00pm at the Mesa City Plaza, 20 E. Main St. Ste. 170.

MEMBERS PRESENT
Cheryl Anderson, Chair
Denise Heap
Lu Ann Schmidt
Mark Tompert

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT
Andrea Alicoate
Ruth Giese
Jodi Sorrell

GUESTS

1. Call to Order.

Ms. Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:06pm.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to DAT.

3. Approval of minutes from the September 16th, 2014 DAT meeting.

Ms. Heap made a motion to approve the September 16th, 2014 DAT meeting minutes, Mr. Tompert seconded the motion. The motion moved unanimously.

4. Receive periodic update from transportation services for people with disabilities including reviewing a quarterly report and annual report on East Valley Dial-A-Ride.

Ms. Sorrell, City of Mesa Transit Director, provided an informational update on the East Valley Dial-a-Ride (EVDAR) and transit services. Ms. Sorrell briefed DAT on the first quarter results of ADA eligibility, RideChoice and Platinum Pass usage in FY 14-15. RideChoice is a Taxi service for seniors and people with qualifying disabilities. 70% of cost paid by Mesa and 30% paid by the rider (ex: for a \$10 ride, \$7 covered by City and \$3 covered by rider). This is a service that is available 24hrs, 7 days a week, 365 days a year; however participants are limited to \$100 per month. The Platinum Pass is also available to ADA eligible persons with disabilities. This program offers free use of Valley Metro buses and rails. It also allows personal care attendants to accompany rider for free. The City of Mesa is consistently a high user of all programs when compared to others in the East Valley: Tempe, Scottsdale, Chandler, Gilbert and Fountain Hills.

Ms. Sorrell advised that a Regional Paratransit Plan was completed in 2008. The 2008 plan focused on moving towards a regional paratransit system by endorsing ADA compliance, thorough eligibility certification process, consistent operation policies and building an integrated regional system. The goals for 2015 include: determining implementation status of 2008 recommendations (fully, partial, not at all), compare local DAR programs and systems with each other and peer communities, identify inconsistencies between local DAR programs, identify/ modify policies and practices to improve regional consistency and/ or best practices and provide a roadmap for implementing needed policy refinements and for increasing regional consistency. Ms. Sorrell added that they will be conducting public involvement by composing a stakeholder group of community members, non-profit paratransit service providers and agencies to meet after each milestone. A survey will also be conducted of ADA service users. Ms. Schmidt shared some personal experiences when using public transportation. Ms. Sorrell stated that she would be a great candidate for the stakeholder group and asked to exchange contact information.

5. Hear update, discuss and take action on an educational awareness campaign related to service animals and ADA regulations for businesses.

Staff provided DAT members with the final brochure. Ms. Anderson recommended that the title be changed to 'ADA Business Compliance Guide' to be friendlier. Mr. Tompert noted that the intended audience is for business owners where 'compliance' is required. Mr. Tompert made a motion to approve the final ADA Business Compliance Guide as is, Ms. Heap and Ms. Schmidt seconded the motion at the same time. The motion moved unanimously.

6. Hear, discuss and take action on planning for town hall meetings to educate the community, business, and leadership on mental health and substance abuse issues.

Ms. Anderson suggested a partnership with Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care. DAT members agreed to conduct the first Town Hall meeting to educate the community, business, and leadership on mental health and substance abuse issues, then one designed towards Key Stakeholders (including Councilmembers), and finally to youth. DAT members proposed Tuesday, March 24th, 2015 for the first event at Marc Community Resources, Inc. Staff was directed to contact Ms. Frias-Long (due to her absence) to see if this date would work for her schedule as well. Ms. Heap stated that she will start contacting sponsors for donated refreshments. Ms. Alicoate stated that staff can assist with designing marketing materials.

7. Hear and discuss the need for and feasibility of creating a Psychiatric Recovery Center in the East Valley.

Mr. Tompert stated that they need to pursue further education on the feasibility of creating a Psychiatric Recovery Center in the East Valley. Mr. Tompert informed that Dr. Michael Franczak, Chief Operating Officer of Behavior Health Services, from Marc Community Resources, Inc. would be willing to present on the matter at a future meeting. Then, Mr. Tompert suggested contacting the Mesa Police Department to present on the need and current process for transporting those with psychiatric need. Ms. Anderson stated that she will contact Dr. Franczak to attend a future meeting.

8. Hear and discuss ways to evaluate the adequacy of services and programs for people with disabilities and the implementation of ADA.

DAT members agreed that this item from their Strategic Plan needs to be refined to workable items, but wish to keep the item on their agenda and open for discussion for the future.

9. Scheduling of meetings, future agenda items, and general information.

- Next DAT meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 18th, 2014 at 6:00pm.
- Future Agenda Items:
 - Hear a presentation and discuss housing opportunities provided by the City of Mesa for people with disabilities. (Tentative for November)
 - Monitor the Mesa City Court protocol for diverting defendants who have mental health issues, veterans, and/or are homeless. (Tentative for December)

DAT members agreed to receive periodic updates from the agencies mentioned as they are available. DAT also instructed staff to arrange a future presentation from Housing staff regarding how they address the disabled community with the programs and services they offer.

10. Adjournment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

*Supporting data is available for public review in the Neighborhood Services Administration Office,
20 E. Main St., Suite 250, Mesa, Arizona 85211-1466 (480) 644-5034*

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Submitted By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ruth Giese", written in dark ink.

Ruth Giese,
Diversity Program Administrator